

THE ABE  
BAILEY



BURSARY  
FELLOWSHIP

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*"One can make a difference in Society wherever one is - and that no matter which Society you're in - the Society only progresses when good people stand up for the poor and the marginalised. A society is judged by how it treats its weakest members, and I think realising that it is not the might of armies or the strength of economies, but the kindness of people, the wisdom of its elders, the passion of its youth that determine a society's greatness."* This was one of many powerful and compelling responses regarding the impact of the Abe Bailey Tour from a 2002 bursar. A synopsis of the questions and responses appears for your interest and information later in this Newsletter.

Warm greetings to all Abe Bailey Fellows across the globe. I salute each Abe who is making a positive contribution to the lives and communities where you are.

**The new POPI Act has come into effect on 1 July 2021 and this requires us to protect your personal information. PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION IN ITEM 9 ON PAGE 12 OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.**

## 1 ABE BAILEY TRAVEL BURSARY TOUR CANCELLED AGAIN IN 2021

In April this year the Abe Bailey Trust reviewed the South African, British and Ethiopian Covid-19 pandemic situations, the slow roll-out of vaccinations in our country, the disruption to our university terms, the challenges faced by our hosts at Goodenough College and others who make the annual tour to the UK possible, the operation of airlines, the current and probable future UK requirements for passengers arriving from South Africa, and the safety of our bursars. In the light of their discussion the Trust took the decision to cancel the 2021 tour. After having no tour for two years, the Trust hopes sincerely that it will be possible to resume all the features of the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary Programme in 2022.

## 2. NEW DIRECTOR OF GOODENOUGH COLLEGE

The Hon. Alice Walpole OBE was appointed the new Director of Goodenough College, and assumed this post in April 2021. She is a former United Nations Assistant General Secretary. Prior to her UN role, she enjoyed a long and distinguished career with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in which she specialised in multilateral diplomacy and conflict resolution. Alice's most recent assignment was as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, an appointment she held with great distinction from 2017 to 2021.



In announcing this appointment, Chairman of Goodenough College Stuart Shilson said: *"Alice was chosen from an extremely strong field of candidates from a wide range of public, private and not-for profit sector backgrounds. She brings a wealth of relevant experience to the position including considerable expertise in leading and managing complex organisations, an international outlook, and skills in building and sustaining effective networks across government, business, academia, and the arts . . . Alice is an energetic and inspirational leader, a persuasive and effective communicator and someone who can deliver change whilst staying true to the College's values and spirit of service"*

For her part, **Alice Walpole** underlined how much she looked forward to her new role: *"What appeals to me most is the opportunity - working closely with Goodenough's staff, Members, Governors, Fellows and Alumni - to shape and support a unique life experience for the College's Members at a historic institution at the heart of one of the world's great cities; to lead and promote an intellectual community, so as to enable each of its members to maximise their potential; to establish the best possible environment in which academic excellence and enriching experience can flourish."*

The Abe Bailey Trust together with Tour Manager, Keith Richardson, and myself as Fellowship Secretary, enjoyed a fruitful Zoom discussion with Lady Alice in July. It was a pleasure to meet her and to begin planning the resumption of the Travel Bursary Tour Programme for 2022.

### 3. GOODENOUGH COLLEGE UPDATE FROM DEAN ALAN McCORMACK

On 23rd March 2020 the world changed at Goodenough. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the UK's first National Lockdown for a promised period of 6 weeks. Alas this period of lockdown was repeatedly extended by the authorities and the life of the College and its Members suffered a considerable narrowing and diminution. Some 500 Members remained in residence throughout the academic year 2019-20 and the College remained open and pastorally available for them but as a shadow, rather, of its former self.

Abes will remember the vivid community life of Goodenough College and the vital pattern of community building that took place between College Members at mealtimes in the Great Hall and afterwards at 'Port Talks', receptions, recitals, seminars and parties in the Churchill Room, and elsewhere. The public health situation during the remainder of the academic year 2019-20 precluded almost all of this. Meals moved to takeaway, eaten solely and sadly in Members' rooms, while the famous Goodenough programme of events, trips and lectures had to be either abandoned completely or delivered virtually. The Summer of 2020 saw the easing of some restrictions in London and the Dean was able to institute a programme of educational 'Perambulations'- up to 6 Members could walk to places of historic interest in London but always wearing masks and, upon their arrival, very little would be 'open' for business. A resolute focus of the College during this period was on Members' mental wellbeing with a full programme of individual wellness Zoom chats happening with all resident Members.

At the beginning of the current academic year, 2020-21, hopes were raised as a new cohort of Members arrived enthusiastically at Goodenough. Deliberately we chose not to fill the College to capacity, prioritising instead issues of community safety during the continuing pandemic. Still, around 500 Members were in residence and limited COVID-secure dining was available in the Great Hall, and many 'blended' Port Talks were held in the Churchill Room. In January 2021 the situation took a definite turn for the worse as the Government announced tougher restrictions and once more the programme migrated to the purely virtual. By now Members were largely frustrated with Zoom and Teams and Member participation in College programming predictably declined.

The Spring saw a loosening of restrictions coincident with the rise in community vaccination rates in the UK and the College has been able to move quickly to organise a programme of actual events. Dining in the Great Hall has resumed; Port Talks are currently held in profusion 'under the tree' in the College Quad rather than in the Churchill Room; and many other outdoor events are happening daily. In the past few weeks we have made day trips to Oxford, Cambridge, Canterbury, Lewes and Runnymede! Only small groups of 12 can travel but demand is very high and we hope to increase numbers when the regulations permit. The summer months see us eagerly planning outdoor concerts, theatre, BBQs, a TEDx and a Summer Ball! We also planned four 30 Member educational group trips to the Burn in July and August. The Burn had to close during the worst excesses of the pandemic but is now slowly opening for business, under the expert eye of David Turner, the Bursar. The Hotel (previously known to Abes as the Goodenough Club) also had to close during the pandemic and it is still closed as we make the most of this opportunity to upgrade its premises.

We are proud to have weathered the storms of the pandemic so far. We did everything we could to make Members both physically safe and intellectually supported during this exhausting and unprecedented period in the College's recent history. In the midst of it all we have welcomed a new College Director, The Hon Alice Walpole, who brings with her all the skills we need to get us back on track. We look forward to seeing the Abes back again at the College, the Hotel and the Burn whenever that proves possible!

### 4. WARM SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES

We share the sad news that has come to us of the deaths of these Fellows: **Peter Duminy (Rhodes 1952)**, **E.E. Baart (Rhodes 1954)**, **Peet Nienaber (US 1954)**, **William Yeowart (Rhodes 1958)**, **Pieter Joubert (UP 1960)**, **RJP du Plessis (PUCHO 1964)**, **Anton Pauw (UP 1967)**, **Ricky Buwalda (Rhodes 1969)**, **Alan Staples (Rhodes 1970)**, **Musi Ndwandwe (UZ 1983)**, **Monwabisi Luxande (UCT 1998)**,

**Michael Joubert (UP 1988)** when passing on the news of his father's passing, paid this tribute: *"Amongst the many wonderful things dad and I shared was the wonderful legacy of the Abe Bailey tour. I know he always held such fond memories of his trip in 1960 and we so enjoyed reminiscing together upon receiving your wonderful Abe newsletters."*

**Boet Coetzee (UN 1967)** shared the news of Anton Pauw's demise, wrote: *"While I know death is inevitable and is something that awaits us all, it saddens me that one of our group has now passed on. It made me realise afresh how privileged I was and how grateful I am to have been associated with Abe Bailey."*

**Ricky Buwalda's wife, Danny**, replied to the condolence sent to her: *"Ricky is at peace now and out of suffering. He will be sorely missed by all of us. Your lovely thoughts and words mean so much to me at this very sad time. I am so pleased Ricky was able to meet up with his fellow 1969 Abe friends in November 2019; he so enjoyed the Farewell Dinner in Newlands. It was so good meeting you too."*

### 5. NEWS FROM ABES AROUND THE GLOBE

**Neville Rubin (UCT 1956)** shared an interesting perspective on his tour experience: *"I continued throughout the tour to administer the affairs of the UCT SRC that included designing the elements of the nationwide campaign against government*

proposals attempting to apply apartheid to UCT & Wits via the Separate Universities Bill. The Bill was of course later withdrawn to be replaced by the euphemistically named but much more drastic "Extension of University Education" legislation that was finally enacted in 1959."

**Chris Wade (Natal 1958)**, also a bursar in the 1st decade of the programme, sent this news: "A couple of years after our extremely interesting and educational Abe tour - for which I shall always be grateful - my family moved back to England. I worked for 7 years with a consulting engineering firm in London, before moving to a Swedish Consultant in Stockholm in 1967. I met my Swedish wife, Agneta, and we married in 1969, and the expected one-year turned into some 35 years! We returned to England on our 'retirements' aged 65, where I embarked on a second career with my own Consulting Engineering firm, until 2019. We have now been married some 50 years, and we commute between Stockholm, where we have our 3 children and 7 grandchildren, and our lovely ancient house in the Kent countryside. For my Swedish Consultants, I worked on infrastructure projects almost exclusively abroad, mainly in the Middle East and Africa, but also in South America. I was based in Riyadh Saudi Arabia for some five years in the 1960s, and more recently have visited Tanzania some 20 times, made some 30 work trips to Turkey, and lectured on contractual subjects in Malaysia and elsewhere. The projects included hydropower, water supply, water towers, nuclear energy plants, tunnels, canals, public buildings, preservation of ancient monuments, railways, and other infrastructure projects. Of particular interest might be a tunnel under the Danube in Budapest, and another tunnel under the Bosphorus in Istanbul, both for expanding metro systems. Over the years I have worked with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, and produced standard documents for construction procedures. I have authored a number of FIDIC documents, which are now used world-wide by governments, contractors, consultants and lawyers. During my years in Sweden I partook in many athletic competitions, and was Swedish marathon champion in 1968 and 69, with several times better than 2hrs 20 mins, my best times being 2hr 17mins. I also competed abroad, e.g. in Ankara, Kosice, Manchester, Windsor to Chiswick."

**Rob Parker (Natal 1959)** responded to the last Newsletter: "What a really interesting Newsletter that I thoroughly enjoyed reading and am so impressed with the comments by our fellow Abes over the years. It was really sad to hear that the 2020 tour was cancelled and that those bursars have missed out on an experience of a lifetime...thank you for keeping the flag flying for the Fellowship."

**Richard Goldstone (Wits 1960)** wrote: "Many thanks for a particularly interesting and enjoyable newsletter." **Graeme Hart (Wits 1962)** helpfully supplied an address for **Anthony Ardington (Rhodes 1962)**: "He is alive and lives in Cape Town, but has had Alzheimer's for many years now and is still at home with his wife and carers."

From **Clive Rosendorff (WITS 1961)**: "Thank you. I always enjoy reading your newsletter. Please keep them coming. I retired from the VA Medical Centre, New York, on December 31st, 2020." Happy to reconnect with **Fanie du Plessis (PUCHO 1964)**: "My apology for going astray. I would like to renew contact and stay in touch with the Fellowship. I joined the Johannesburg Bar in 1977 and am still here. I look forward to future newsletters." Van **Arrie de Beer (PUCHO 1966)**: "Bly om te sien jy is nog sterk aan die gang. Baie interessante en uitgebreide nuusbrieff met heelwat om oor na te dink en te wonder." **Andrew MacKenzie (Natal 1962)** offered an interesting photo: "Thank you for your various communications. Despite 1962 being an awfully long time ago, I still read them with interest. I notice that you have some photos of long-past tours. I have a good quality black and white photo of our group taken in London House in December 1962 (supposedly the worst winter since 1740!!). Keep up the good work."

From **Boet Coetzee (Natal 1967)**: "Many thanks for another interesting Newsletter and for all your efforts on behalf of the Fellowship. Despite the havoc that COVID-19 wrought you were still able to put together a great edition of the Newsletter. For obvious reasons, there will be no 2020 tour. Is it the first time in the history of the Fellowship that we will be skipping a year without any awards and associated tour taking place?" No Boet, the 1980 tour was cancelled because of widespread student unrest on university campuses. **Johan Scott (UP 1967)**: "Thank you for forwarding the Fellowship contact list; it is always interesting to browse through it and to recall interesting times."

**Sid Rogers (Natal 1969)** wrote: "Greetings to you all! Difficult to believe that another year has passed... 'Though much is taken, much abides'. Sadly there are now two fewer than when we started out. Do hope that you and yours are travelling as well as can be in these precarious times. Happy memories of our 50th re-union dinner in December 2019." From **Callie Coetzee (PUCHE 1969)**: "Thank you very much. I look forward to reading the newsletter each year. May God bless your work as Secretary/Organiser and be assured that we appreciate it very much." From **Tony Frost (Natal 1969)**: "I set off on my 11th cycle tour under the auspices of the 1965 Ride from Johannesburg to Queenstown, to raise funds for bursaries for deserving and talented kids. So far since inception we have raised some R7million and awarded over 100 bursaries." **Frank Muggleston (Rhodes 1970)** wrote: "Thank you for your email containing the sad news about **Alan Staples' (Rhodes 1970)** death. He and I were both from Rhodes and had rooms in the same corridor during our first year. Stay well and thank you for the work you do for the Fellowship."

News from Virginia, USA, **Kenneth Eriksson (WITS 1971)**: "I am very saddened to read about recent developments in South Africa over the past 10 days. What is the way forward with so much poverty and unemployment in the country? Thank you for continuing to send me the Abe Bailey Newsletter which I read with great interest. I often think back to my experiences as an Abe Bailey Fellow in 1971 - all white guys!! So pleased to read about the increase in diversity in the Fellowship. I moved to the USA in 1978 and return to South Africa at least once each year to visit family. Recently I retired after 52 years as an academic - 10 at Wits, 3 in Texas and 39 at Virginia Tech."



Following an academic career spanning 52 years, the title of 'Professor Emeritus of Geosciences' was conferred on **Kenneth**. His citation included: "A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1981, Eriksson was principal or co-principal investigator on research grants on Precambrian sedimentation and crustal evolution, geological history of the Appalachian Mountains, evolution of rift basins, and diagenesis of sandstones. His scholarship led to more than 150 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reviews. His research also took him to Australia, South Africa, China, and Zimbabwe... He received many professional honors and awards, including an honorary doctorate from the University of Pretoria. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Geological Society of South Africa, and served as co-chief editor of the journal *Precambrian Research*."

**Michiel le Roux (US 1971)**, with **Kenneth** celebrating the 50th anniversary of their tour, reported: "I became an Abe by accident. A student was nominated by the Stellenbosch SRC to receive the bursary in 1971, and my name slipped in as an afterthought when it transpired that he was too old (age limit 25) to travel with the group and unexpectedly I was an Abe Bailey bursary holder. The trip itself was magnificent. The cruise to London, meeting the very conservative Afrikaans guys from universities up north and the liberal English guys was a tonic. We considered ourselves a very diverse group, but we were all male and white. Major Batcock (London House staff) endlessly knowledgeable, if sometimes boring, taught me how to understand the present by way of knowing history. I think Sir Abe wanted to convince bursary holders of the superiority of the true English way, and in this one case at least he succeeded. Although I grew up resenting the colonial impact of England as imperial power on South Africa, I was greatly impressed by what I experienced in the United Kingdom. This trip helped me to view the history of South Africa more dispassionately.

Upon my return I completed my law studies in 1972. I got married the day after receiving my LLB at the end of 1972. Cecile and I have four married children and 15 grandchildren, although I have clearly explained to my children that four times four equals sixteen. We have always lived in Stellenbosch (for the last 41 years in the same house), although for a brief period I commuted to Durban. Since my trip I have remained in close contact with other Abes. **Gys Steyn (US 1956)** was my boss for many years and I succeeded him as managing director of Distillers Corporation in 1979. In 2001 I was part of the team that started Capitec Bank in Stellenbosch. In 2010 I founded Millennium Trust as a philanthropic endeavour, with **Le Roux van der Westhuizen (US 1985)** as the managing trustee. His daughter, **Helene-Mari (US 2013)** was also a bursary holder. I remain close friends with **John Daneel (US 1973)**, **Edwin Hertzog (US 1972)** and **Anton van Niekerk (US 1978)**. The Abe Bailey bursary played a huge role in my life. It made me aware of the parochialism inherent in small town South Africans - although I am happy to still be a small-town South African. It also helped me to understand that one must complain less about your society and do more to help shape it."

**Cedric McClelland (UPE 1975)** wrote: "Many thanks for the newsletter - it is always appreciated." **Graham Oberem (Rhodes 1975)** informed the Fellowship of **E.E.Baart's (Rhodes 1954)** passing some years ago and added: "Thank you for all that you do for the Abe Bailey Fellowship." Both disconcerting and positive news from **Adam Klein (WITS 1973)** "As for most of us worldwide, the New York Covid lockdown has been extremely disorienting and ominous. Unfortunately I had a complicating element with Lymphoma and need for 6 months of chemotherapy further exacerbating the need for 'distancing' and not entering any store or location other than the hospital monthly - my wife and daughter had to constrain their lives to protect me further and do all the basic household shopping! Needless to say, I have just had my 6 month post chemo CT Scan check-up and the prognosis continues to be very positive and reassuring. My warm greetings to you and all Abes."

From **Piet Naude (US 1981)**: "I remember the interesting debates due to our diverse views on change in South Africa at the time, 13 years before our transition to democracy. I also enjoyed being with a group of exceptional leaders who subsequently excelled in their chosen careers. The cultural exposure in the UK and afterward in Europe left a mark of "globalisation" long before it was fashionable to speak about multi-lateralism. I completed my doctoral studies in The Netherlands after the tour, followed an academic career to full professor, served as Dean of two faculties, was deputy vice-chancellor at Nelson Mandela University and ended my formal career as Director of University of Stellenbosch Business School." **Loammi Wolf (OFS 1981)**: "How young we were. This trip was really such great fun! I am forever indebted to the trust for this wonderful opportunity. And I am just amazed at how much South Africa changed in this short span of time."

**Dolly Khumalo (Fort Hare 1983)** sent fascinating news: "I felt this urge that I should pen a book about my life as both a scholar and a public servant. I retired last year having served the public for 37 years. In my book I highlight the work of the Abe Bailey Trust and the Travel Scholarship as one of the key milestones in my life. My UK trip through Abe Bailey opened up other avenues for International travel. I travelled to the US for study, and stayed in South Carolina. Things changed quite a bit post 1994. I ended up not completing my Masters degree whilst on the other hand, I was climbing the corporate ladder. I traveled to many countries through my work, like Sweden, Turkey, Senegal, Zimbabwe, France, Beijing and Hong Kong. My work journey has been a privilege. I left my work space with no regrets. I turned 60 last year and I have been doing Consulting work on a request basis in the area of Heritage. I'm a community worker, and volunteer my services for issues pertaining to Gender Equality and Human Rights. I remain single, have a beautiful daughter and two grandchildren." From Australia, **Mark Stanbridge (Natal 1983)** appreciated the 2020 Newsletter: "What a great report. So sorry to hear about the cancellation of the Tour. I am sure that the tour will be back as strong as ever next year. Thank you for all that you do for the Abe Bailey Bursary and the Fellowship." Also from **Danie Du Plessis (PUCHO 1983)** who provided valuable contact details and updates for a number of Fellows: "Thank you very much for the contact list and for your dedication and kind service." This information has enabled us to renew contact with some 'address unknown' Abes. Thank you Danie.

The 1985 bursars held a Zoom meeting in December 2020. Pictured from the left, top row, are **Le Roux v.d. Westhuizen (US)**, **Louis van Pletzen (OFS)**, **Sizwe Mabisela (FH)**, **Mala Naidoo (Dbn-W)**, **Edmund Brice (UCT)**, **Henk Stoker (PUCHO)**, **Cromwell Mashengete (UNorth)**, **Ronee Robinson (RAU)**, **Martin Potgieter (UN)**, **Gustav Gous (UP)** and **Franklin Larey (UWC)**.



**Vasu Gounden (Durban Westville 1986):** "Thanks for the consistent communication. Great to see all the pics...brings back wonderful memories like it was yesterday!" **Victor E. d'Assonville jr (PUCHE 1987):** "Thank you for your kind email. Since 2008 I have been working in Germany, which is still the case. The reason for me not giving a German postal address yet is because my stay in Germany was never meant to be permanent. I only reckoned on five years. In the meantime it has now become almost 13 years. I visited my father **Victor d'Assonville (PUCHO 1952)** yesterday. He always spoke with warm and appreciative words about the wonderful Abe Tour he was part of. It is interesting that he was on the first tour in which anyone from Potchefstroom University could join at all, since during these initial four years delegates from the various universities were selected in alternate years. When I told him about your kind email yesterday he immediately started sharing wonderful, fond memories of his tour in 1952. Although he is almost 94 years old, his mind and memory are still amazingly clear. Thank you for all the trouble you take to keep in touch with us all." **Mike Joubert (UP 1988) wrote:** "I always look forward to the Abe Newsletter and to read with interest about members of our Fellowship and their adventures...thank you for the latest edition which I have thoroughly enjoyed. We live in uncertain times at the moment and whilst regrettable, not having a tour is the wise thing to do"

**Keith Richardson (Abe Tour Manager)**, while discussing some of the responses to the Survey reported on later in this Newsletter, commented on the formidable action of an Abe bursar of whom he became aware: "**Penny McKenzie (Natal 1989)** came to see me in 2010 well before the Abe Bailey Tour became a feature of my life. She came to sell me the concept of a Trust, which she and others had set up, to see if Wynberg Boys' High School could play a role. One of the questions in my Survey was how Abes could make a contribution to South Africa. In 2003 Archbishop Tutu called on privileged South Africans to donate R200 a month to a family in poverty. **Penny** prevailed on family, friends and varsity colleagues all around the world, including two past Abes, **Lyndsay Brown (1991)** and **Angus Stewart (1990)**, to be donors to support her vision of giving two young South Africans plus their mother a fighting chance in life. The Trust raised R1.4 million over 18 years and put two young people through pre-school, primary and secondary education and one through tertiary education. Their mother also obtained a matric and tertiary qualification through the Trust. Having completed its 18 year journey, with all family members in meaningful work, the Trust is closing down. It is living proof that a different future is possible – where children are educated and nurtured, they are enabled to reach their potential. Even more importantly, it shows how one person (yes, an Abe...) CAN make a difference."

I approached Penny for her permission to share such a remarkable venture in this Fellowship Newsletter, to which she graciously consented. In her reply she also mentioned: "Mark and I have moved to Australia, most of our family live here and so we finally decided to make the move." Well done Penny, and no doubt many other Abes.

From **Robin Pearse (Wits 1997):** "Thank you very much for your newsletter. As always it is an inspirational read." Current news on LinkedIn about **Janhendrik Oosthuizen (UP 1999):** Entrepreneur, Board Director as well as Atomic Leader and Certified Go-Giver Keynote Speaker who believes we can only change humanity's collective story by building better individual stories. **Sharon McGregor (RAU 1999)** wrote: "I hope you are keeping well and staying safe in these unprecedented times. I always enjoy reading the annual newsletter, and hope that the tour will be able to resume soon once it is safe to do so."

This year is the 20th anniversary of the 2001 tour. The Fellowship sends you warm greetings as you remember your tour experiences. Some news from **Jan-Paul BORMAN (RAU 2001):** "Just a quick hello from Warwickshire! I'm staying close to



Farewell debriefing dinner at Goodenough 2001



Stratford-upon-Avon now. I think of all the great memories every time I drive through Stratford. I joined Ernst & Young in October 2020 to lead their Midlands transfer pricing practice in the UK. I've been specialising in transfer pricing since 2008. It is a sub field of international corporate tax. My base office is Birmingham. When I'm in Jozi again, I'd gladly catch up with those in the city of gold, with hearts of gold."

From **Matthew Charlesworth (Rhodes 2002)**: "I was looking forward to being a school chaplain in Johannesburg, but God has a sense of humour and I have now been missioned to be the Director of Communications for the Jesuits in Southern Africa, based in Zambia. With my best wishes and prayer."

**Anchen Laubscher (UFS 2003)** wrote: "Thanks so much for the comprehensive and enjoyable newsletter-update! Always such fun to read." Also from **Elbereth Donovan (RAU**

**2003)**: "Lovely as always to receive the address list! The tour made a lasting impact on my life, but a shock to realise it's been 18 years, when it feels like just the other day!"

From the Ivory Coast, **Ace Majija (NMU 2005)**: "Always great hearing from you. A quick update from me. I have since moved to Cote D'Ivoire as Chief Executive: Retail, Corporate and Strategy for our French-speaking countries (Ivory Coast, Togo and Cameroon). Still at Prudential. So if anyone is ever in my part of the world, let me know." A tour mate, **Nomalanga Mkhize (Rhodes 2005)**, wrote: "It is great that recent bursars got to go to Ethiopia! This is amazing and a brilliant way of giving young South Africans exposure to the African community, its opportunities and challenges. South Africans are under-exposed to much else on the continent." According to LinkedIn, **Wynand Smit (NWU 2005)** started a new position as Chief Risk Officer at FNB Wealth and Investments

**Lourens Du Plessis (US 2006)** wrote: "Thank you so much for the newsletter, which I enjoyed receiving and reading (as always!). Such a pity the tour had to be cancelled, but that's to be expected and the right thing given the circumstances. Here's hoping and praying it'll be possible to return to 'normal operations' next year. It'll be a pleasure meeting the new Abes in London again." From **Inger Fabris-Rotelli (UP 2007)**: "An update on myself: I was promoted to Associate Professor from the beginning of 2021 and am still very much pursuing my academic career in statistics, specifically spatial statistics, image processing and remote sensing. I have been living in Oxford for almost two years now as I am studying here at Oxford University. I currently have my South African family home address listed in the contact list, but I am intending to stay in the UK for the next few years."

**Nobulali Dangazele (WITS 2008)** wrote: "I went to Oxford last week to buy furniture and when I told my partner I had the opportunity to sleep at the Randolph Hotel he was in disbelief. I really am appreciative of the bursary and have always wondered how I may give back. I will still be in the UK next year and would love to welcome the bursars once COVID 19 has ceased. I love what the travel bursary does and would like to use my presenting skills to find a way to say THANK YOU!"

From **Richard Wilkinson (UCT 2010)**: "Thank you for another wonderful newsletter!" **Geraldine Lazarus (UZ 2010)** wrote: "It is always so good hearing from the Fellowship...I can't believe it's been 11 years since our tour. A trip that paved a way for success and many opportunities. I completed my PhD in Biochemistry. I am a Regulatory Pharmaceutical Scientist and the COVID pandemic has been keeping me working longer than the sun stays out!" From **Mario Meyer (UWC 2010)**: "Thank you for the latest edition of the Abe Bailey Newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it, and was reminded of the spirit of the programme while doing so. I was also reminded of how fortunate I am to have had the opportunity to be on the tour, and the impact that the experience had on my life journey." From Canada, **Keeve de Villiers (US 2010)**: "Thank you so much for all your hard work in putting the newsletter together. I truly appreciate reading it every year!"

From **David Minné (NMU 2010)**: "The tour was a trip of a lifetime for me. A real perspective shaper. As I write this we are airborne from Munich and half way to the USA. We will be spending another 2 years in South Carolina working on the next BMW model. What an adventure!"

**Kameel Premhid (UKZN 2012)** wrote: "What a pleasure to hear from you, as always, and to read all the wonderful news from the Trust and the Abes all around the world. My congratulations to you and the Trust for your stewardship during these difficult and unprecedented times, as well as the selfless and much needed decision to support other organisations at this time who need support." According to social media, **Jessica Standish-White (UCT 2012)** started a new position as a Mathematics teacher at Jeppe High School, and **Richard Chemaly (UFS 2012)** is an Entertainment and Entrepreneurship Attorney, Writer and Consulting Strategist, and the Cofounder of a music and tech startup navigating issues of rights and royalties in Johannesburg, Gauteng.

**Clara Ravhuhali (Maila) (UL 2013)** was a 2021 semi-finalist in the Mrs South Africa woman empowerment movement. Currently she is a Registrar at Tygerberg hospital and Stellenbosch University in Chemical pathology. **Blessing Masuku (UJ 2014)** wrote: "Abe Bailey made me realise that I could be anything I want to be. I am now a clinical psychologist working in New Zealand and I believe it was through this opportunity and others that helped build the woman I am today. The trip built

confidence in me, a dream, a passion and a pursuing spirit. I moved to Auckland, New Zealand in July 2019 and am practising as a Clinical Psychologist in the private sector. Had it not been for the opportunity granted to me in 2014 that planted a passion and dream in me, I don't think I would be here. It's not any day you get granted a scholarship to travel to the UK to learn about yourself, history, leadership and becoming an agent of change. Abe Bailey taught me that I could be anything I wanted to be, if I worked hard at it. So I did and I'm forever grateful."

A challenging opportunity came to **Cyan Brown (UP 2015)**: "I couldn't be more excited to be joining the Forbes Ignite Impact Fellowship to help design solutions in artificial intelligence in healthcare that can bring about innovative change in public health to those who need it most. I'll be joining a multi-disciplinary team of women from all over the world to tackle health care challenges with AI and bring a more gendered approach to the work. Great things are possible when professional silos are broken down and creativity fuels innovation." News posted on social media about **Farai Mubaiwa (US 2015)**: "I'm so honoured to have represented my country and the African continent at the G20 Youth Summit last week. After 4 months of negotiating with other G20 youth leaders, last week was a full conference of finalising our policy recommendations and engaging with World Leaders. At the close of the Summit, I was nominated to share policy proposals with the G20 Sherpa. To have been the only African country in the G20, and still nominated by delegates from other countries to present, was so encouraging. And it is proof of the world being in good hands with our generation." **Simangele Msweli (UKZN 2015)** was also in touch: "Great to hear from you. I am just alerting you that I recently started a job in Kenya, African Wildlife Foundation as Senior Manager of the Youth Leadership Programme. Still staying in hotels but will confirm my new address as soon as I settle on a home"

From the most recent tour, **Muano Nemavhidi (UV 2019)**: "Thank you for sharing the newsletter and working so tirelessly to keep the community going. The Abe community is my most treasured intangible belonging. In my native language, which is Venda, we say 'Mudzimu avha tonde, avha shudufhadze. This is to say: May God keep and bless you."

## 6. 10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2011 ABE BAILEY BURSARS

When the Farewell Dinners for departing new bursars were held in late November each year, the Fellowship also honoured the bursars from 10 years ago who often held a Reunion on the same occasion. This could not happen last year so a special feature was included in the 2020 Newsletter to mark this event for the 2010 tour group. Again this year, with another cancellation, the 10th Reunion of the 2011 tour cannot be marked in this way. Some of them were able to have an online celebration by way of a Zoom session. **Ziyanda Stuurman (US)** sent some details: "A few of us met virtually last night and shared updates from the past 10 years and marveled at how everyone still looks the same! As promised, we took a screengrab of the conversation at some point last night and I've attached that to this email. It was really so amazing to see everyone again."



EIGHT OF THE 2011 ABES MET ON ZOOM IN APRIL 2021 (vertically):

**Muedanyi Ramantswana (NMU)**  
**Camalita Naicker (Rhodes)**

**Khomotso Moshikaro (UP)**  
**Ryan Lamb (UFS)**

**Makale Ngwenya (TUT)**  
**Jan Greyling (US)**  
**Nida Jooste (UFS)**

**Ziyanda Stuurman (US) [inset]**

Here are some updates:

**RYAN LAMB (UFS)**: "I lived in London for about 6 years and managed to meet a number of Abe groups at their Goodenough College Welcome Reception. There was always a positive energy and excitement with each group, it was very nostalgic for me and wonderful to meet such intelligent and motivated Abes from across South Africa each year. I've also lived in Bristol, Sheffield and now Leeds, working across technology consulting and data analytics in multinational and smaller firms. I am now in charge of all technology operations and systems at a global online education company. A couple of Abes from our 2011 group managed to join a Zoom reunion call a few months ago - they've gone on to achieve amazing things and I feel fortunate to know such inspiring people excelling in so many fields. I'm still so grateful to have been a part of the Abe Bailey programme all those years ago and look back at our tour with only fond memories."



**ZIYANDA STUURMAN (US):** *"The Abe Bailey experience will certainly always count as such a highlight and a really great part of both my career development and also my personal growth. Since 2011, I've had the chance to return to the U.K. to do a Masters in Security Studies at Sussex University and I have written a book about policing in South Africa called "Can We Be Safe?" I definitely think that the Abe tour was a catalyst for all of that and so much more. I'm also still in regular contact with so many other Abes from our tour year and I can't wait for us to all meet again in person when we're vaccinated!"*



**LINDELANI NKOMO (UZ):** *"The pinnacle of my life. As a young boy I had various aspirations and dreams to fulfill in life, yearning to be the best I can be in my community and the world at large. With a terrible background and impoverished family like mine some things seemed far-fetched and impossible to achieve. Visiting all those places on the tour and meeting people from various walks of life opened my mind and showed me that it is possible to live your dreams regardless of who you are and where you come from. Now reflecting about the past 10 years, life has not been gracious to me in many spheres of my life. I can safely say the trip to England and Scotland was a highlight of my life thus far. I have not lost hope in life and I know great things are yet to come. I am meant for great things - the scholarship showed me exactly that."*

**RACHEL MORROW (UKZN):** *"It's hard to put into words the impact of the Abe Tour on my life but two things stand out to me. The tour expanded my world view: quite literally! It was my first trip overseas, and there are not many things more revolutionary to yourself than travelling with an open mind and with intelligent people. Ten years on from then, and over 30 countries visited or lived in, I still place special importance on the trip that first ignited my passion for discovery. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the trip expanded what I thought was possible for myself, and in doing so, expanded what was actually possible. Assuming our basic needs and rights are respected, some of the most severe limitations are the ones we place on ourselves, and this trip made me believe I was capable of much more. As I continue to struggle to expand what I believe is possible for myself, it is an important reminder to think back on the time I first considered myself capable of going to Oxford University. Now it's the place I attained my Masters degree from, and it's where I'm currently doing my doctorate. I feel very grateful for that."*



**NIDA JOOSTE (UFS):** *"It is always such a joy to receive communication regarding the Fellowship. Although it is a shame that the pandemic continues to disrupt and deprive students of an incredible opportunity, such is life and the history books will remain interesting. I am still practising law in Pietermaritzburg and recently accepted the offer to join our firm's board as a director. Reminders of the tour are never far off - I recently found myself sitting next to **Toni Palmer (UKZN 2010)** in court: an Abe and member of the Durban bar. We managed a quick introduction and chat about the Fellowship and mutual Abe friends. Our group's recent virtual reunion was a beautiful reminder of the unique path each Abe has crafted, and how, despite only spending a mere three weeks together, we remain inextricably linked through our experience. The tour was truly a launching pad for me into what true diversity looks like. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to learn from such phenomenal people and regard the experience as something sacred. Let's hope 2022 will allow us to bid new Abes farewell."*

**ANN-MAREE TIPPOO (UCT)** has served as a trustee on the Abe Bailey Trust for some years, and continues to make a vital contribution.

## 7. A GOODENOUGH COLLEGE DIRECTOR, ANDREW RITCHIE, REMEMBERS...



*"I had been at Goodenough only a few months when my first Abe Bailey bursars arrived in November 2006. I was still coming to terms with my transition from commanding the British Army's officer training academy at Sandhurst to overseeing 700 international post-graduate students from around 90 countries. The Goodenough students were generally brighter than the Sandhurst cadets but were significantly more argumentative. My role was decidedly different too. No longer was I a military general who gave orders; my job now was a combination of headmaster, guide, mentor and friend. It was a challenging but fascinating contrast.*

*Into my new world came an extraordinarily diverse and eclectic group of South African students led by a real (albeit former) headmaster and inspirational guide, mentor and friend to generations of Abes. I learned a huge amount from John Gibbon about how to manage intelligent, articulate and occasionally stropky future leaders during my first encounter with the Abes and on every successive tour I had the privilege of hosting at Goodenough.*

*Goodenough College was founded to provide a home in London for Commonwealth students studying at London's universities. A South African was one of the first three students at the College (then called London House) back in 1931 and over the years many hundreds of South Africans have lived, worked and played in Mecklenburgh Square. Sadly South African numbers were low when I arrived and I saw the annual Abe Bailey tour as a means of giving those historic links a boost by encouraging Abes to return to the College to undertake postgraduate degrees. I am delighted to say that South African representation was much stronger by the time I departed in 2018.*

*A happy memory is my visit to South Africa in 2010. My wife Camilla and I were fortunate to meet Goodenough and Abe alumni at receptions in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town, and to end our stay by attending the Abe Bailey Farewell Dinner. It gave me a wonderful first-hand experience of the strength of the bonds that link Abes of all ages and eras. I said in my speech*



that evening that all former bursars have Honorary Membership of Goodenough College for life and I encouraged them to stay there whenever they are in London. That offer remains good and I hope Abe alumni will make use of it when the dreadful Covid-19 pandemic is behind us.

I was never able to spend as much time with each year's bursars as I would like. But I would always hold a welcome reception at the start of the tour and whenever possible host a party at my house followed by a farewell dinner. Camilla and I also attended a concert or play with them whenever we could. It enabled me to get a feel for the character of each group and hear their views on the political, cultural and social scene in the UK and South Africa.

Each year group was of course different but the bursars were individually engaging and committed to one another and to the team as a whole. Most importantly they accepted and respected each other's backgrounds which I saw as the basis for enduring friendships. It was a pleasure to watch their personalities develop and blossom through the duration of the tour. They were never slow to express their views in a forthright but well-considered way; their insights were honest and thought-provoking. They were always appreciative of John Gibbon and of their various hosts, and indeed of their good fortune in being given the opportunity to visit the UK. In short they were fine ambassadors for South Africa.

Looking back on my 12 years at Goodenough, the Abe Bailey tour was one of the highlights of each College year. I enjoyed getting to know each successive group and, in the process, learned a great deal about South Africa and its young leaders. I send my warmest wishes to all old Abe Bailey bursars and hope this great bursary programme continues to go from strength to strength."

**Major General Andrew Ritchie CBE** - Director of Goodenough College 2006-2018

## 8. SURVEY OF ABE BAILEY TRAVEL BURSARY TOURS FROM 1951 TO 2019

Towards the end of 2020, **Keith Richardson**, the current Tour Manager, sent out a survey on Google to all Past Abes. 120 Fellows responded and there is no doubt that this input will significantly impact the planning of future tours. The objective of the survey was to confirm what was good and beneficial in past tours, thus assisting the planning and organisation of future tours which would not only encompass the spirit of Sir Abe Bailey's bequest, but at the same time reflect the challenges and issues of our current times.

From a 1967 Abe: 'It is more than 50 years later and I stand amazed at the foresight Abe Bailey had in creating this Trust.'

**Question 1: How would you rate this statement as a criterion for tour selection: 'We are looking for someone with ability but with a conscience; with compassion but without arrogance. Someone who will make a difference to South Africa in the years to come.'**

Spot On: 47%

On the Right Track: 51%

### **Summary of Comments:**

The tour seems not to have been advertised extensively enough by the universities. Some universities just advertise it as an overseas trip. There was a strong feeling that universities tended to submit a short list of high flying student leaders - not necessarily those who would use the trip to understand issues and to work with their fellow South Africans. The one criterion which came through strongly was that successful candidates should have the ability to appreciate different opinions.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: "Potential bursars should be individuals with a hunger for knowledge; with curiosity but with enough humility that they are willing to unlearn old ideas and be open to learning about new topics and developing different ideas." (2019)

**Question 2: Did you find offensive the every-day reminders of British Culture, with its colonial and Empire undertones, i.e. museums, churches, statues, memorials, palaces etc?**

Strongly disagree: 55%

Disagree: 27%

Agree: 15%

Strongly Agree: 3%

### **Summary of Comments:**

This was the most controversial of the questions. However, the most common thread running through was if you put your name forward for consideration for selection to tour another country, you must then expect a predominance of cultural experiences from that country.

A wide spectrum of opinion from 'they opted to come on the tour, they must deal with it' which was a common thread of early tours, to 'it was probably the most alienating and micro-aggressive experience of my life' (2017).

As the stats above reveal, by far the most popular opinion was that the Abes were in the UK to learn about another culture and must use their experience gained on the tour to start a conversation about the future.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: "We cannot give in to "cancel culture." We must acknowledge the past - the good and the bad. I think partly it comes down to how one understands culture. You can either take a classicist view, in which case there is a high idea of culture from which all other cultures must reach towards. If this is British Culture, it will necessarily make those from non-British cultures inferior and unsettled, or even angry. But that is not the only way to view cultures. A better way, would be to understand cultures in an empirical way. Empirically then, each culture is its own, influenced in many ways, but no one is less or greater than the other. There is no 'perfect culture' to which the others must reach. Each culture offers lessons and warnings for every other. I think by keeping this fact in mind, and seeing a culture, like Britain, that has been documented, preserved, and critiqued - one can learn to appreciate one's own culture, as well as see how rich Africa is in its cultures." (2002)

**Question 3: Abes on the tour are often told how special they are: 'It is your chance to interact with other dynamic and talented people'. They also receive ongoing reminders that they have been selected from 'thousands of their fellow South African students'. Did you find this expectation of being considered amongst the elite to be a burden on you while on the tour?**

Not at all: 63% It was at the back of my mind: 24% I was continually aware of it: 11% It weighed heavily on me: 3%

**Summary of Comments:**

It was interesting to read how many of the comments revealed an insecurity amongst the more recent Abes that they would not be up to the challenge. Two comments indicate this: 'we were all expected to drop pearls of wisdom' (2014) and 'I did not feel adequate compared to the other bursars - but I learnt to live in my own lane' (2017). Most replies indicated that they just wanted to use the opportunity to the full.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: 'It motivated me to want to be the best of me - then, on return and even today. It reminded us that the future of our country is in our hands.'(1997)

**Question 4: What was the most enriching aspect of your tour?**

**Summary of Comments:**

There was a sprinkling of Abes saying how enriching the museums and shows were, but by far the majority of all the years indicated that the experience of meeting others Abes from different cultural groups was the most enriching aspect. Recent Abes commented on the opportunities to research and give presentations on places to be visited, as well as the difficult conversations held after individual Abe personal presentations.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: "The daily exposures to musical and drama performances, art and other cultural experiences were very enriching. We were flooded with culture, and beauty and stimulating debates" (1985).

**Question 5: What did you find as the most enjoyable aspect of your tour?**

**Summary of Comments:**

Museums and Theatres came up often as did Ethiopia (from the most recent tours), Houses of Parliament, Stratford, Oxford, Cambridge and Stonehenge. One Bursar said that 'being lost' was his highlight!

I would estimate that about 60% of the responses said The Burn was the most enjoyable aspect of their trip.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: "Bus debates and reflections. Sitting with a different Bursar in the bus to get to know them better. Walking endlessly. Having my history, my existence explained in another country. Need I go on? The whole tour was the necessary fire in my belly to propel me forward."(1997)

**Question 6: In your opinion, what could have been added to the tour which would have enriched the trip even more?**

**Summary of Comments:**

A number of ideas came out, but there was one thread and that is that the Bursars of ALL tours indicated that they would like to have met more folk of their own ages i.e. past Abes; students from the various universities; young South Africans in business overseas.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: "Wish we could do it again now. The benefit of hindsight and experience now would multiply the effect even more so." (2003)

**Question 7: Are there any aspects of your tour which disappointed you?**

**Summary of Comments:**

A thread which comes through in this section is that by far the majority enjoyed and appreciated their tours. Not everyone is going to enjoy every aspect, but the objective is to give a number of different experiences. A number of responses indicated a sense of entitlement which bursars exhibited as the trip progressed which resulted in groups forming. Tensions about racial and gender disparities could be triggered after presentations or visits to various sites. A number of comments underlined the importance of debriefing after presentations and visits.

Selected Thought-provoking Comment: "I sometimes found the views of some of our guest speakers one-dimensional. No one is objective but one-sided thinking can be disappointing if you go in thinking the speakers walk on water. Maybe the disappointment comes from seeing how human everyone is." (2018)

**Question 8: In spite of the British writer, Dr Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784), saying that if 'you are tired of London, then you are tired of life', some Bursars found the tour too long and reduced themselves to becoming 'shoppers'. Was this a feature of your tour?**

Yes: 3%

No: 97%

**Summary of Comments:**

The stats above give a very effective answer to this question. However, there were comments about rifts being caused in the tour party but it seems that those wanting to shop are a small minority which did not affect the success of a tour.





Significant Thought-provoking Comment: "There are so many very pressing issues in current times, from climate change to social justice and many more. Humanity as a whole, and South Africa, face existential threats. We simply cannot carry on as normal. I think the tour and the Abe Bailey organisation is uniquely placed to play a more dynamic role in galvanising awareness and action to address these issues." (1965)

Our warmest thanks to **Keith Richardson** for this creative endeavour, for the vast amount of analysis, and for the valuable pointers towards an even more successful and effective travel bursary programme in the future.

## 9. THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT

The POPI Act came into effect on 1 July. Our database contains your name, postal address, year and university attended when you were selected as an Abe Bailey Travel Bursar, and your current email address, voluntarily supplied by you. Each year in March the Fellowship publishes a CONTACT list with these details that will ONLY be sent to former Abe bursars and to newly selected bursars for a current year's tour (as from 2022 hopefully). Annually in September this Newsletter is compiled with general news and extracts from letters you have sent to the Fellowship Secretary, or, in a few cases, have been published on LinkedIn or other social media.

The Fellowship commits to protecting your information in our database and confirms that it will only be used for the purposes outlined above. Under no circumstances will your personal details be made available to any organisations or third parties. The CONTACT LIST and NEWSLETTER are distributed to Fellows by email. If no email address is held for you, a hard copy of the document is sent by post to your postal address.

If you wish to have your details deleted from our database, other than your name, year of award and university in the record of past bursars, please send an email to the Fellowship Secretary to this effect. Otherwise you will continue to receive the CONTACT LIST in March and the FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER in September each year.

## 10. ABE CONTACT DETAILS

Old Abes with whom we had lost contact have been traced by fellow Abes or have reconnected with the Fellowship. Welcome back! If you know details of any bursars listed as 'unknown' in the March 2021 Official Contact List, or of Fellows who have passed away, please let me know.

## 11. NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL

All Fellows receive this **annual Newsletter** and the **March Official Contact List by e-mail**, unless we have no e-mail address for you. In these few cases, they are sent by post – and, unfortunately, take a long time to reach you. If you are in this category, please send me your e-mail address so that we can update our records.

**Be sure to inform me of any changes in your e-mail details.**

Occasionally there are problems about Fellowship Newsletters sent by email reaching you. They are sent from my personal address [disag@mweb.co.za](mailto:disag@mweb.co.za). The problem may be that the receiver perceives the message as spam - so it is advisable to check your 'junk' folder to see if it has been blocked. Another may be that you haven't 'whitelisted' messages from my email address – this needs to be done on the receiver's side and normally via your provider (i.e. MWeb). For gmail accounts you may need to check your settings to accept messages from my email account.

## 13. OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE:

- To all who sent in news, contributions and up-dated contact details.
- To special contributors: former Director, **Andrew Ritchie**, and Dean **Alan McCormack**
- To Chairman **Brian Figaji** and the Abe Bailey Trustees for their commitment to the annual travel bursary programme and the Abe Bailey Fellowship, and for their wise planning.
- To Ms **Lynnsay Jones**, Trust Officer, for her work in connection with the Abe Baily Travel Bursary
- To Tour Manager, **Keith Richardson**, for the tour survey and visionary planning of the tour programme
- To Goodenough Director, Lady **Alice Walpole**, for her enthusiastic support , co-operation and assistance
- To Ms **Debbie Webber**, the local travel agent who handles flight reservations for each tour. She sent appreciation for the copy of the 2020 Newsletter: *"I loved reading this - took me a couple of days to take it all in....I feel honoured to be a tiny little part of this incredible Tour each year! Thanks for forwarding the newsletter to me - what an informative read."*

Best wishes to all Fellows, wherever you find yourself at this time.

*John Gibbon*  
SECRETARY/ORGANISER

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